

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The new claims are believed to comply with this requirement.

Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by European Patent Application 1262534. The European Application discloses a removable pressure sensitive adhesive that has a gel fraction of at least 70% when cured. The adhesive must remain gelled after curing so that the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet of the invention can be removed from the surface to which it is applied. For example, the adhesive sheet can be in the form of removable masking tape or a removable sticky note.

In contrast to EP 1262534, claim 23 recites a method of adhering first and second wood pieces together. Moreover, claim 23 states that the adhesive is allowed to cure and set firm to adhere the wood pieces together. This is contrary to the invention of EP 1262534, which requires the cured adhesive to retain a high gel fraction so that it can be removed after it is applied.

Claim 27 states that the adhesive when fully cured has an adhesive strength of at least about 8 Mpa. Again, this is contrary to the invention of EP 1262534, which must have a relatively low adhesive strength so that the adhesive sheet can be removed after it is applied. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are novel and nonobvious over EP 1262534.

Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hennen (US 6,982,107). Claims 3, 11-17 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hennen in view of Dickmann (US 4,325,855). However, neither Hennen nor Dickmann teaches or suggests a method of adhering first and second wood pieces together. Hennen discusses adhering to plastics, not to wood pieces, and particularly not adhering two wood pieces together. Although painting is mentioned in Hennen, it is in relation to painting a plastic auto part, not a wood piece.

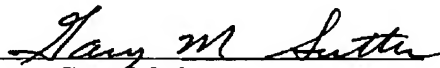
In particular, neither Hennen nor Dickmann suggests using an adhesive product comprising a backing strip of release material and a gelled adhesive on the backing strip to adhere two wood pieces together. There is no suggestion that such a product could be made suitable for use as a wood adhesive for adhering wood pieces together.

Further, there is no suggestion in the patents that such a product could be used to adhere two wood pieces together and to achieve an adhesive strength of at least about 8 Mpa.

Moreover, there is no suggestion to use the particular claimed compositions to achieve an adhesive product that is suitable for adhering two wood pieces together, and in particular to achieve the claimed adhesive strength.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are novel and nonobvious over Hennen alone, and over Hennen in view of Dickmann.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Sutter
Reg. No. 31,574

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fifth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 255-5900